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October 13, 2009

The Hon. Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I heartily endorse the views expressed by my Energy & Commerce Committee colleagues in their letter to you of October 5, 2009. Your proposal to adopt new "net neutrality" rules poses significant concerns, especially considering the state of our economy.

Like my colleagues, I support an open Internet and want my constituents to enjoy the full panoply of benefits that broadband provides. In my view, faster speeds, lower prices, increased deployment, and rapid adoption are all signs of a healthy broadband marketplace. With the advent of 4G wireless broadband, it is reasonable to expect marketplace competition to increase in the near future. As you have pointed out, in addition to these consumer benefits, broadband has also become important to the delivery of innovative solutions to many important societal problems, including educational, health and environmental issues.

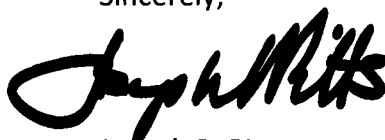
Fundamentally, it is important to acknowledge that broadband is critical to our economy. Fortune 500 companies and home-based businesses alike are relying more and more on broadband for the conduct of business. Broadband is important to economic development – locally, regionally and nationally. Returning to prosperity is our top national priority, and we should focus on initiatives that will help increase employment. Incentivizing broadband development is one such policy.

I receive hundreds of letters a week from constituents who are concerned about the ineffectiveness of Washington's efforts to stimulate the economy. According to recently released Bureau of Labor Statistics figures, since the start of this recession, the number of unemployed persons has increased from 7.6 million to 15.1 million and the unemployment rate has doubled to 9.8 percent. About 8.5 percent of Pennsylvanians and nearly 10 percent of all American workers number among the unemployed.

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While "net neutrality" rules would primarily address theoretical future problems, the current recession has created very real problems for millions of Americans. However well-intentioned, new "net neutrality" regulations have the potential to hurt the economy by discouraging investment and job creation. For that reason, I urge you to reconsider this proposed rulemaking. I believe the FCC should focus on encouraging more widespread adoption of broadband and finding ways of extending broadband to those areas that do not have it today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph R. Pitts". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "J" and a cursive "Pitts".

Joseph R. Pitts
Member of Congress



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

March 3, 2010

The Honorable Joseph R. Pitts
U.S. House of Representatives
420 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pitts:

I write to update you on the progress of our ongoing rulemaking to preserve the open Internet. Thank you for your letter expressing your thoughts and concerns about the Commission's launch of a participatory public process to develop commonsense rules of the road to preserve an open Internet. I believe we share a common purpose in ensuring that the Internet remains an enduring engine for innovation, investment, economic growth, and the free flow of information. To this important end, you have my pledge to continue working with you and your staff in an ongoing, constructive dialogue with respect to this crucial infrastructure.

The Commission released its *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* on preserving the open Internet on October 22, 2009. The *NPRM* launched a multi-month process, with the goals of safeguarding the free and open Internet, providing greater predictability for the marketplace, and fostering continued innovation and investment. The task of securing an open Internet deserves an open process. Accordingly, Commission staff are conducting a fact-based, transparent, and participatory process to develop rules based on a record that includes engineering and economic examinations.

The Commission has convened a group of technical advisory experts for ongoing input, and held a workshop in December on broadband network management. Over the last three months, the Commission also has held staff-level workshops on investment and innovation, on consumers and transparency, and on free speech and civic participation. Our process now is well underway, and we are encouraged by signs of growing common ground among the many stakeholders we have heard from.

I look forward to continuing a constructive dialogue with you on these issues. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Genachowski", with a small dot at the end of the signature line.

Julius Genachowski